

A1
SUB
B1
Cmt.

at least a first electro-active element;
a first conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element;
a second conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element; and
an insulator bonded to said first electro-active element,
wherein said first electro-active element and said first and second conductors are not in electrical contact with said suspension structure, and
wherein said actuator is bonded to said suspension structure such that in-plane strain in said electro-active element is effectively shear-coupled between said electro-active element and said insulator, and
wherein said in-plane strain in said insulator is effectively shear-coupled between said insulator and said suspension structure.

23. (New) The disk drive device of claim 22 wherein said actuator further comprises an inactive element.

24. (New) The disk drive device of claim 22 wherein said actuator further comprises an enclosing layer encasing said electro-active element and said conductors, and wherein said actuator forms a card.

25. (New) The disk drive device of claim 22 wherein said actuator further comprises at least a second electro-active element.

26. (New) The disk drive device of claim 25 wherein said first electro-active element is driven in a positive orientation relative to its poling field, and said second electro-active element is driven in a negative orientation relative to its poling field.

A1
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Cont.
27. (New) The disk drive device of claim 22 wherein said first electro-active element comprises a first region and a second region, and wherein said first conductor is in electrical contact with said first region and said second conductor is in electrical contact with said second region.

28. (New) The disk drive device of claim 27 wherein said first and second regions of said first electro-active element are poled in opposite directions.

29. (New) The disk drive device of claim 27 wherein said first and second regions of said first electro-active element are poled in the same direction.

30. (New) The disk drive device of claim 22 wherein said insulator is positioned between said suspension structure and said electro-active element.

31. (New) The disk drive device of claim 24 wherein said encasing layer is an electrical insulator, and wherein said actuator is bonded to said suspension structure with an adhesive layer positioned between said encasing layer and said suspension structure.

32. (New) A disk drive device comprising

a suspension structure; and

an actuator having

at least a first electro-active element;

a first conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element;

a second conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element; and

an insulator bonded to said first electro-active element and said suspension structure,

wherein said first electro-active element and said first and second
conductors are not in electrical contact with said suspension structure, and

wherein said actuator is bonded to said suspension structure such that in-plane strain in
said electro-active element is effectively shear-coupled between said electro-active element and
said suspension structure.

33. (New) A disk drive device comprising

a suspension structure; and

an actuator having

at least a first electro-active element;

a first conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active
element;

a second conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active
element; and

an insulator bonded to said first electro-active element and said suspension
structure,

wherein said first electro-active element and said first and second
conductors are not in electrical contact with said suspension structure, and

wherein said actuator is bonded to said suspension structure such that in-plane strain in
said electro-active element acts on said suspension structure.--

Basis for Amendments

Claims 1-21 have been cancelled without prejudice and without the intention of
abandoning the subject matter claimed therein. Indeed, Applicants may choose to pursue claims
of the same scope, or narrower or broader scope, in the form of one or more related applications
at a later date.